

**BEFORE**  
**THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**DOCKET NO. 2008-192-WS - ORDER NO. 2008-349**

**MAY 12, 2008**

IN RE: Petition of the Office of Regulatory )	
Staff for a Rule to Show Cause )	EMERGENCY ORDER OF
against Seahorse Investment and/or )	SINGLE COMMISSIONER
Brett Gaston and Requesting an )	
<u>Emergency Injunction</u> )	

This matter comes before this Commissioner on the request of the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-859 (Supp. 2007) for an emergency order enjoining Seahorse Investment and/or Brett Gaston ("Seahorse," "Gaston" or "Respondent") from disconnecting and/or discontinuing water service or sewerage collection service to customers located in the Dale Valley Mobile Home Park and requiring Respondent to reconnect and maintain service to those customer(s) it has already disconnected until further order of the Commission. ORS seeks this order due to Respondent's failure to act pursuant to the statutes and regulations governing public utilities.

Upon information and belief, Seahorse Investment and/or Brett Gaston ("Seahorse," "Gaston" or "Respondent") is the owner/operator of a public water system providing water service to approximately 66 residential customers in the Dale Valley Mobile Home Park, and Respondent also owns and operates a wastewater collection system in the Dale Valley Mobile Home Park. ORS has viewed a bill issued by Respondent in which Respondent has charged the residents of Dale Valley Mobile Home Park for water and sewer collection services. ORS is informed by a customer of Dale Valley Mobile Home Park water and sewerage collection

systems that his or her service was disconnected/discontinued by Respondent. Further, upon information and belief, Respondent has indicated that he will disconnect/discontinue service to customers who are delinquent on payment of their bills.

Accordingly, ORS requests the Commission issue an Order restraining and/or enjoining Respondent from disconnecting service or requiring the utility to maintain the status quo with its customer(s) until further Order of the Commission. Further, ORS requests that if Respondent has already disconnected/discontinued service to any of the Dale Valley Mobile Home Park water or sewerage collection system customers that the Commission issue an Order directing and requiring Respondent to reconnect service to those customers and to maintain the status quo until further Order of the Commission.

It appears to this Commissioner that there are questions as to whether certain Commission Rules and Regulations have been violated resulting in the unlawful disconnection of utility services to a customer(s). 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-859 (Supp. 2007) provides that, when it appears to the ORS that a utility has or is planning to disconnect service to customers in violation of the Commission Rules and Regulations and under circumstances which prevent the full Commission from meeting to address the issue, upon the request of the ORS, R.103-859 allows an Order to be issued to restrain or enjoin a utility from disconnecting service or to maintain the status quo with customers until further Order of the Commission. Thereafter, at the next scheduled Commission meeting, with proper legal notice, the full Commission shall consider the Order of the single Commissioner and take such legal action on the single Commissioner's Order, as the Commission deems appropriate.

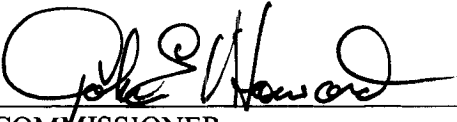
Based upon the documentation provided, questions exist as to authority of the Respondent to charge for the water service and sewer collection services which are being

provided to the residents of Dale Valley Mobile Home Park and regarding the disruption of service to the Dale Valley Mobile Home Park customers, potentially in violation of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. At this time, the full Commission may not meet on this matter until at least May 14, 2008. Therefore, upon the request of ORS, I believe that it is appropriate to hereby order Respondent to reconnect those customers whose service was previously disconnected or discontinued and maintain service until further Order of the Commission. Additionally, I believe it is appropriate to restrain and/or enjoin Respondent from further disconnecting service to its customers and to maintain the status quo until the full Commission may consider this matter.

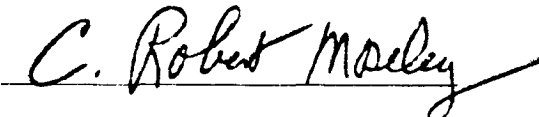
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent shall reconnect customers whose service has been previously disconnected or discontinued and maintain service until further Order of the Commission.
2. Respondent is hereby restrained and/or enjoined from disconnecting service to Dale Valley Mobile Home Park customers until further Order of the Commission.
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL)